

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
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TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
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C O N F I D E N T I A L IBADAN 0438

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (P A R A 3)

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGSGGV PGOV PINT EAGR ECON NI
SUBJECT: LAND USE DECREE; JEMIBEWON SCORES DRAMATIC VICTORY

RF: LAGOS 4663, LAGOS 4732, IBADAN 385

SUMMARY: MEDIA GIVING HEAVY PLAY TO ACCEPTANCE BY OYO
STATE OBAS OF LAND USE DECREE, AND IT BEING TOUTED AS
PERSONAL VICTORY FOR OYO STATE MILGOV JEMIBEWON, WHICH IT
UNDOUBTEDLY IS.

1. AS BACKGROUND TO JEMIBEWON'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECREE,
HE WAS ORIGINALLY GIVEN TASK OF BRINGING NEWS TO YORUBA-
LAND, THE THEORY BEING THAT IF THEY ACCEPTED ANYONE WOULD.
HE HELD SEVERAL MEETINGS OVER THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 25-26,
AND THE REACTION WAS UNIVERSALLY AND LOUDLY ADVERSE. ON
TUESDAY MARCH 28 HE HELD A GOWS CONFERENCE AND APPARENTLY
SPILLED TOO MANY BEANS. JEMIBEWON WAS RELIABLY REPORTED
AS HAVING BEEN CALLED KAJTHYFLO LAGOS ON WEDNESDAY MORN-
ING. TO CLARIFY JEMIBEWON'S QTE GAFFE UNQTE, THE HEAD OF
STATE MADE THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE DECREE THAT NIGHT ON
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TV. IT WAS ORIGINALLY TO HAVE BEEN PROMULGATED AFTER THE
BUDGET SPEECH AND AFTER PRESIDENT CARTER'S VISIT. WITH
PERHAPS MORE EXPLANATION AND PREPARATION.

2. AS FOR JEMIBEWON, HE TOOK ON AS HIS PERSONAL TASK THE
SELLING OF THE DECREE. HE PRESUMABLY PUT SO MUCH PRESSURE
ON THE OBAS, WHO MUST BE TOTALLY AGAINST THE CONCEPTS IN

THE DECREE, THAT THEY KNUCKLED UNDER. THIS IS TYPICAL OF JEMIBEWON'S STEAMROLLER TACTICS WHICH HAVE REPORTEDLY MADE HIM A FAVORITE GOVERNOR WITH OBASANJO. (ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF JEMIBEWON'S CHARACTER OCCURRED R A MEETING OF CONTR-ACTORS ABOUT 10 DAYS AGO. HE BRUSHED ASIDE EXCUSES FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION DELAYS BY SAYING, QTE DAMN UNDERGROUND CABLES, FULL SPEED AHEAD. UNQTE.

3. WE ARE BEGINNING TO GET SOME FAVORABLE COMMENTS ON THE DECREE EVEN FROM MIDDLE OR UPPER CLASS LANDOWNERS OR PERSPECTIVE LANDOWNERS. THEY SEEM TO SEE IN THE DECREE POSSIBILITIES FOR CLEARER AND EASIER ACCESS TOLANDS.

4. HOWEVER, THE DECREE STILL COULD BE A POLITICAL ISSUE NATIONALLY OR LOCALLY AS WE MOVE INTO THE ELECTION ERA. AWOLOWO'S TRIBUNE CAME OUT TODAY SOLIDLY BEHIND THE DECREE AND GAVE JEMIBEWON FULL CREDIT FOR HIS SELLING JOB. WITH THE OLUBADAN (A REPORTED SUPPORTER OF THE ELITIST IBADAN PARAPO) AND THE OBAS IN COUNCIL PUBLICLY ACCEPTING THE DECREE, THE CONSERVATIVES MAY HESITATE FOR THE MOMENT TO MAKE AN ISSUE OF IT. HOWEVER, IT IS A NATURAL AS A POPULIST-CONSERVATIVE ISSUE.
HOYT

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